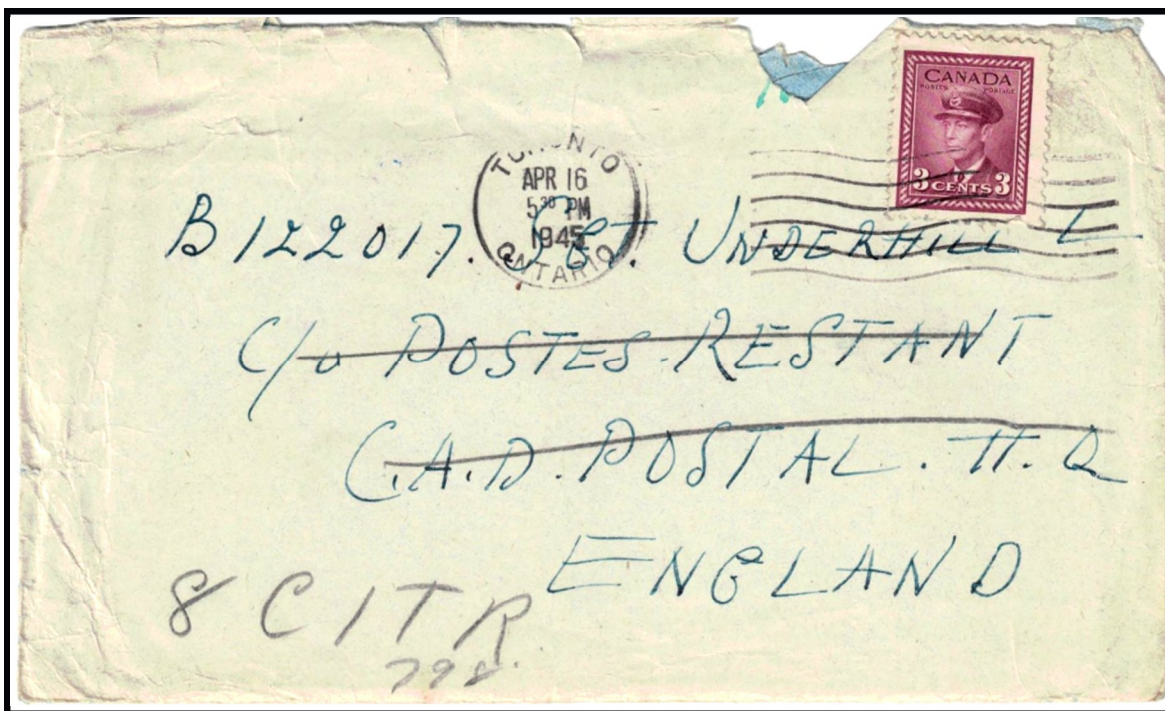


Military Toronto – World War II – *Poste Restante*

During World War II soldiers were frequently sent overseas from training centers without awareness of the units to which they would be assigned. To assure that mail would be delivered to them regardless of this unknown, the *Poste Restante* was established in England at the Canadian Army Overseas Headquarters. Routine Order No. 3675 (September 30, 1943) explained the *Poste Restante* Service and directed soldiers to provide friends and relatives with its address and then inform friends and relatives of their correct address as soon as known.

The envelope below, mailed 16 April 1945 from Toronto - received in England 29 April 1945, is addressed to the ***Poste Restante*** service and has a **Postal Tracing Section** back stamp on the reverse (scan below right). Soldiers were to apply for their mail upon their arrival in England. Letters to *Poste Restante* were held for 60 days then returned to the sender. It is undetermined if this mail was sent to the soldier or returned home. No return address was included on the envelope but was included in the letter.

The letter comments on the death of President Roosevelt.



Scan from obverse



Scan from Routine Order 3675

Poste Restante Service

20. The *Poste Restante* service is operated by Canadian Postal Corps Headquarters in the United Kingdom for the benefit of personnel mentioned in para. 19, and for other soldiers such as personnel attending courses overseas, or members of advance parties who cannot have their mail addressed to a definite unit overseas. The *Poste Restante* service is only a temporary expedient and must not be used as a permanent address.